

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:	Seguin et al.	GROUP:	Unknown
SERIAL NO:	Unknown	EXAMINER:	Unknown
FILED:	01/24/02		
FOR:	TEST TUBE WITH DATA MATRIX CODE MARKINGS		

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examining this application on the merits, please add the following claims 22-32:

1 22. A test tube, comprising:

2 a tube body of unitary construction comprising an enclosed sidewall and an integral bottom
3 that together define a tubular container having an open top, wherein said bottom has a planar
4 exterior surface upon which machine readable data is encoded within an opaque coating deposited
5 onto said planar exterior surface to uniquely identify said test tube.

1 23. The test tube of claim 22, wherein said opaque coating comprises:

2 a first layer of light colored opaque material deposited onto said planar exterior surface;
3 and
4 a second layer of dark colored opaque material deposited onto said first layer, with select
5 portions of said second layer having been removed to define said machine readable data.

1 24. The test tube of claim 22 wherein said machine readable data is encoded by
2 exposing said coating to a coherent light source.

1 25. The test tube of claim 23 wherein said machine readable data is encoded by
2 removing selected portions of said second layer to expose underlying portions of said first layer.

1 26. The test tube of claim 25 wherein the selected portions of said second layer are
2 removed by exposure to a coherent light source.

1 27. The test tube of claim 23 wherein said first layer is white and said second layer is
2 black.

1 28. The test tube of claims 23 or 27 wherein said first and second layers comprise metal
2 foils.

1 29. A method of manufacturing a test tube, comprising the steps of:
2 providing a tube body of unitary construction comprising an enclosed sidewall with and
3 open top and an integral bottom with a planar exterior surface;
4 applying an opaque coating to said planar exterior surface; and
5 encoding machine readable data within said opaque coating.

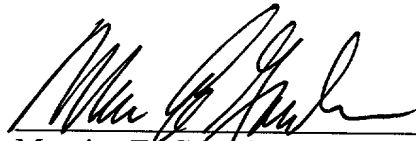
1 30. The method of claim 29 wherein the application of said opaque coating comprises
2 the steps of:

- 3 a) depositing a first layer of opaque material onto said planar exterior surface; and
4 b) depositing a second layer of opaque material onto said first layer, wherein said first
5 and second layers are of contrasting colors.

1 31. The method of claim 30 wherein said first and second layers comprises metal foils
2 deposited by hot stamping.

1 32. The method of claim 29 wherein said machine readable data is encoded by exposing
2 selected portions of said opaque coating to a coherent light source.

Respectfully submitted,



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